COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Fishing Report

Friday April 23rd, 2021



News and Information

COVID-19 Response

Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds anglers, hunters, and all other outdoor recreationists that it is your responsibility to research and understand the specific guidance, ordinances, and restrictions in place for any planned local recreation know before you go. To see specific county health orders, visit Colorado Counties Safer at Home Map.

Spinney Mountain State Park to open Friday to hand-launched vessels only

<u>Spinney Mountain State Park will open Friday, April 23,</u> providing anglers with one of their coveted annual spring fishing rites. Due to very low water levels, boat ramps and breakwater buoys cannot be set and thus only hand-launched vessels will be allowed on the reservoir until further notice. The opening will officially mark the beginning of the 2021 Spinney Mountain Reservoir fishing season.

Golden trout return to State Forest State Park

Anglers in northern Colorado are hoping some tiny fish will mean the return of a popular catch at State Forest State Park. About 600 golden trout have been stocked into two high-elevation, backcountry lakes, in the park with the hopes that they'll grow to catchable size in a few years.

Mack Mesa Reservoir drained to remove northern pike

In response to the discovery of northern pike in Mack Mesa Reservoir at Highline Lake State Park, Colorado Parks, and Wildlife is draining Mack Mesa Reservoir. Work to drain Mack Mesa has begun and will continue for several weeks. The lake will be slowly drained to protect infrastructure and to effectively remove other species of fish for transfer to Highline Lake. Mack Mesa Reservoir is a small lake just north of the larger Highline Lake. Highline Lake will not be impacted by the project and will remain open to boaters, anglers, and other recreationists.

Boat ramp changes at Vega State Park

To prevent boats from launching during hours that ANS inspections are not available, the park has installed new gates and one-way spike strips. The spike strips will allow boats to exit the lake after hours at the Island Boat Ramp but will prevent anyone from entering the lake during non-inspection hours. Purchase of the traffic spike strips was funded by Ute Water with installation assistance and materials provided by the Town of Collbran Public Works and the Collbran Job Corps concrete trades training program.

Low flows to affect fishing in Dolores River tail-water

Due to continuing drought conditions, trout fishing in the Dolores River below the McPhee Reservoir dam will be adversely affected this year, said a Colorado Parks and Wildlife aquatic biologist. Water releases from the dam will probably be under 15 cubic feet per second (CFS) and could drop as low as three CFS, explained Jim White, aquatic biologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife in Durango. In normal years, the sustained release from the dam is usually about 60 CFS. The section of river, which flows through the Lone Dome State Wildlife area, from below the dam to Bradfield Bridge — a distance of about 12 miles — is a popular tail-water fishery. Most trout fishing is done within the first six miles.



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Check out our CPW community on Facebook. Colorado anglers can "like" the CPW Facebook page to get tips, share stories, and more. If you love the outdoors, this is the place to be. Before you head out, head for facebook.com/ColoradoParksandWildlife/.



Fish with us on Twitter

Colorado anglers can get updates directly from CPW on Twitter. Follow <a>@COParksWildlife.

Stocking Report

Body of Water	Region	Report Date
Chipeta Lake	Southwest	4/5/2021
Ridgway Reservoir	Southwest	4/5/2021
Lon Hagler Reservoir	Northeast	4/6/2021
<u>Carter Reservoir</u>	Northeast	4/6/2021
Boulder Kids Pond	Northeast	4/6/2021
Loveland Service Center Pond	Northeast	4/6/2021
Ehrlich Lake	Northeast	4/7/2021
<u>Centennial Lake</u>	Northeast	4/7/2021
North Sterling Reservoir	Northeast	4/7/2021
Jackson Reservoir	Northeast	4/7/2021
Sheldon Lake	Northeast	4/7/2021
Pericles Pond	Southwest	4/7/2021
Shavano Pond	Southwest	4/7/2021
Uncompangre R #3A	Southwest	4/7/2021
<u>Axial Basin</u>	Northwest	4/8/2021
Rangely FP	Northwest	4/8/2021
Sleepy Cat Ponds	Northwest	4/8/2021
Wyman Pond	Northwest	4/8/2021
Craig City Ponds	Northwest	4/8/2021
Craig Justice Center Pond	Northwest	4/8/2021
Harvey Gap	Northwest	4/8/2021
Hallenbeck Reservoir	Northwest	4/8/2021
Juniata Reservoir	Northwest	4/8/2021
Confluence Lake	Southwest	4/8/2021
Olathe Kids Pond	Southwest	4/8/2021
Northgate Pond #1	Southeast	4/5/2021
Northgate Pond #2	Southeast	4/5/2021
Northgate Pond #3	Southeast	4/5/2021

Midwestern Farms Pond	Southeast	4/5/2021
Clay Creek Pond	Southeast	4/5/2021
Las Animas Pond	Southeast	4/5/2021
<u>La Junta Kids Pond</u>	Southeast	4/5/2021
Pikeview Reservoir	Southeast	4/6/2021
Wolf Lake	Southeast	4/6/2021
Rocky Mountain Lake	Northeast	4/7/2021
Berkeley Lake	Northeast	4/7/2021
Cherry Creek Reservoir	Northeast	4/8/2021
Willow Springs Pond #2	Southeast	4/9/2021
Duckwood Pond	Southeast	4/9/2021
Quail Lake	Southeast	4/9/2021
Prospect Lake	Southeast	4/9/2021
Wildwing South Pond	Northeast	4/12/2021
North Lake Park Pond	Northeast	4/12/2021
Willow Bend Pond	Northeast	4/12/2021
Boxelder Lake #3	Northeast	4/12/2021
Windsor Lake	Northeast	4/12/2021
<u>Viele Lake</u>	Northeast	4/13/2021
Riverside Park Lake	Northeast	4/13/2021
Glenmere Lake	Northeast	4/13/2021
Billy Creek Lake	Southwest	4/15/2021
Ridgway Reservoir	Southwest	4/15/2021
Applebaugh Pond	Southwest	4/12/2021
Ridgway Reservoir	Southwest	4/12/2021
Uncompangre R #3A	Southwest	4/12/2021
Dome Lake, Upper	Southwest	4/13/2021
Hot Springs Reservoir	Southwest	4/13/2021
<u>Main Lake</u>	Northeast	4/13/2021
Centennial Park Lake	Northeast	4/13/2021

Smith Lake	Northeast	4/13/2021
<u>Turks Pond</u>	Southeast	4/14/2021
Black Hole at Two Buttes	Southeast	4/14/2021
Hasty Lake	Southeast	4/14/2021
Jackson's Pond	Southeast	4/14/2021
Roaring Judy Ponds	Southwest	4/16/2021
Twin Spruce Ponds	Southwest	4/13/2021
Echo Canyon Reservoir	Southwest	4/16/2021
Pastorius Reservoir	Southwest	4/16/2021
Pueblo Reservoir	Southeast	4/13/2021
Brush Hollow Reservoir	Southeast	4/13/2021
Beckwith Reservoir	Southeast	4/13/2021
Evergreen Lake	Northeast	4/13/2021
Rifle Lions Pond	Northwest	4/14/2021
Corn Lake	Northwest	4/15/2021
Blue River #3	Northwest	4/14/2021
Wilmor Pond	Northwest	4/15/2021
Nottingham Lake	Northwest	4/15/2021
Slough Pond	Northeast	4/15/2021
Kriely Pond	Northeast	4/15/2021
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Catch of the Week



Olivia with her personal best 24-inch rainbow trout! She was fishing in Basalt using a 5wt with a black bead head woolly bugger.

Would you like to be featured in the next CPW Fishing Report's Catch of the Week? Share your photo!

Email dnr_fish.reporter@state.co.us and put "Catch of the Week" in the subject line or submit through the CPW Fishing App.

Conditions Report - Metro

Aurora Reservoir

Park Rangers report as of 4/23/2021, there have been a few reports of trout caught near the dam using PowerBait. Try fishing shallow for rainbows cruising the shallow water. Fly casters are reporting fair to good success. Olive leech patterns are recommended for fly casters. There are some reports of walleye and smallmouth bass being caught using jigs. For more information call 303-326-8425. Park hours for April 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Aurora Reservoir

Chatfield Reservoir

As of 4/23/2021, the park ranger reports fishing is starting to pick up for all species and action should continually pick up with warmer temperatures. A large variety of lures are working for bass, walleye, and trout. Some anglers reported success bait-fishing the bottom.

Chatfield Reservoir

Cherry Creek Reservoir

As of 4/23/2021 boating is open daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the East Ramp only. Fishing is fair at the moment with anglers having limited success using mealworms, wax worms, Gulp worms, and nightcrawlers on Rapala raps, buck-shot flutter spoons, blade baits, and others. No other reports on any other species at this time. For more information please call (303) 690-1166.

Cherry Creek State Park

Standley Lake

The reservoir is closed to paddle craft use until May 1. Ice fishing is not allowed. Most of the reservoir is still open water. Please call ahead prior to heading to the reservoir to get up-to-date lake and shoreline fishing conditions. Contact park staff at 303-425-1097.

Standley Lake

Quincy Reservoir

As of 4/23/2021, the bass fishing has been slow with a few reports of largemouth bass being caught in the East cove using jigs and lipless crankbaits fished slowly. There have been a few reports of smallmouth bass caught off the dam using jigs. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures only. Only watercraft capable of being launched by hand is permitted. Trailers and vehicles are not permitted in the water. Park hours for April are 6:00 am to 8:30 pm. For more information call 303-326-8424.

Quincy Reservoir

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Antero Reservoir

As of 4/23/2021, the reservoir has open water! There is still a fair amount of ice but it is not recommended to attempt ice fishing at this time.

Antero Reservoir

Barr Lake

As of 4/23/2021 park staff reports that the lake is ice-free and the water temperatures are is around 50 degrees. There have been reports of anglers fishing from shore with good water clarity up to a foot. No species report. For the most current conditions, please contact park staff by calling 303-659-6005.

Barr Lake

Boyd Lake

As of 4/23/2021, park staff reports Boyd Lake is OPEN to boating. All boats must be properly registered and equipped per state law. All vessels are required to be inspected for Aquatic Nuisance Species before launching. The lake is ice-free. There is no fishing permitted from marina slips or docks. Please call Boyd Lake State Park at 970-669-1739 to get the most up-to-date ice conditions.

Boyd Lake

Cheesman Canyon

As of 4/23/2021, the canyon has low flow and high water clarity making for some difficult yet rewarding fishing. Be stealthy on your approach to avoid scaring fish. Using a longer leader along with small midge pupa and Baetis emergers have proven effective.

Flows: 98.7 CFS Above Cheesman Lake (4/23/2021)

Cheesman

Douglas Reservoir

The reservoir was recently stocked with catchable (~10-inch fish) on 3/11/2021. Douglas Reservoir

Dream Stream - South Platte

As of 4/23/2021, hatch activity has been abundant including increased blue-winged olive activity with the warmer temperatures. The midge activity continues to be strong and anglers have reported success catching trout on nymph rigs. Flows: 80 CFS Above Eleven Mile (4/23/2021)

Dream Stream

Eleven Mile Reservoir

As of 4/23/2021, The 11 Mile Marina reports "The lake is approximately 50% ice-covered. There is open shoreline all around the lake. The trout fishing is reportedly very good. The action is very good for some and very poor for others. You need to know how to fish the Mile during ice off. Timing and conditions vary and greatly affect your catching. All baits seem to work but the question is when. We went out the other day in the late afternoon. Caught six nice fish jigging tubes and marabou's in an hour or so. An angler nearby said he had been there all day and caught nothing. Change up your offerings frequently if they aren't working. Black Marabous have been consistent but also consistently hard to find. We have some but they won't last long. Sunrise and sundown have been good. But other times of the day depending on conditions are also productive. If it is calm and beautiful the bite is usually difficult. Wind makes for better catching."

"Northern Pike fishing no new reports on northern pike caught from shore, but this time of year can produce trophy fish."

https://www.11milesports.com/fishing-report

Eleven Mile State Park

Horsetooth Reservoir

As of 4/23/2021, the reservoir is ice-free and water levels are around 80% capacity. Horsetooth Reservoir

Jackson Lake

As of 4/23/2021, park staff reports the lake is full and the water surface temperature is approximately 42 degrees. The lake is OPEN to boating. All boats must be properly registered and equipped in accordance with state law. All vessels are required to be inspected for Aquatic Nuisance Species prior to launching. Outside of inspection hours, boats are required to have valid pre-inspection documentation (seal and receipt) prior to launch.

ANY BLUE RECEIPT or OUT-OF-STATE seal/receipt will not be accepted at Jackson Lake for pre-inspection purposes! Recent legislation now requires you to dry your vessel AND remove your plug before driving it on public roads. Jackson Lake

North Sterling Reservoir

As of 4/23/2021, the lake is OPEN to boating. All vessels must go through an Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) inspection prior to launching. Water levels are three feet from full and slowly rising. Please keep a lookout for possible floating debris, and always be aware that unmarked hazards may exist. If debris or hazards are discovered please notify park staff. Before boating, check that your vessel has all of the required safety items on board. The Inlet is ON and the Outlet is OFF. No reports from species caught. Contact the park for the latest ice conditions at 970-522-3657.

North Sterling Reservoir

Spinney Mountain Reservoir

Spinney Mountain State Park opened 4/23/2021 at 5:46 a.m. The docks will not be pushed in. Due to very low water levels, the reservoir will open to boating of hand-launched vessels only. Boats with motors will be allowed and will require an ANS inspection going in and coming out.

Spinney Mountain Reservoir

St. Vrain State Park

As of 4/23/2021, park staff reports fishing continues to be great on most of the ponds. Walleye and saugeyes have been landed during this aggressive post-spawn feeding. We've also seen carp and trout pulled from the ponds as well. Please contact the park for the most up-to-date conditions by calling 303-678-9402.

St. Vrain State Park

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River - Leadville to Buena Vista

As of 4/20/2021, Braden Baker with Ark Anglers writes, "The upper river is beginning to offer more early spring fishing opportunities as things slowly thaw out and open up. The outflow from Twin Lakes is now running at 104 CFS. Hayden Meadows is starting to offer more open water but be prepared for snowbanks and ice shelves along the edges of the river. Shallow nymphing here is beginning to become very productive with stonefly nymphs, midges, and bluewinged olive nymphs. Deeper, slow runs or pools that receive ample sunlight are going to offer your best chances at finding active fish, but with warmer temperatures, more fish are spreading out to intercept food in riffles and shallower runs. If you can locate a fish in the deeper winter water, you'll likely find a concentrated population holding together with a lot of vacant water upstream and downstream. Your best window of opportunity will be between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Midges and blue-winged olive nymphs will be your most important forage to imitate, and pairing these with a large attractor nymph like a stonefly is a great way to cover your bases. We've had a few blue-winged olive hatches reported up north, especially with this week's inclement weather. There should be many more opportunities to catch a mayfly hatch up here in the coming weeks."

Flows: 105 CFS at Hayden Meadows, 158 CFS, and ICY at Granite (4/23/2021)

http://www.arkanglers.com/

Arkansas River

Arkansas River - Buena Vista to Salida

As of 4/20/2021, Braden Baker with Ark Anglers writes, "Last week's colder, cloudy weather prompted some excellent blue-winged olive hatches and some of the best dry fly fishing we've seen this spring. The weather has limited the fishing pressure some, but anglers who've dressed appropriately have been pleased to see strong numbers of fish feeding on the surface in the middle basin over the past few days, prime targets for dry flies and light dry/dropper tactics. The warmer, cloudy weather this week should make for more comfortable conditions but still, give a good chance for dry fly fishing. Combine the hatches of blue-winged olives with plentiful midge hatches, molting golden stonefly nymphs, and morning caddis larva drifts and we are seeing a dramatic shift in the feeding behavior of our local trout. We've even had a few sightings of adult free-living caddis (precursors to the brachycentrus hatch) above Salida towards Buena Vista. The increased volume of food has fish migrating out into riffles, shallow runs, and pocket water to feed. The window of productive time on the river is much broader now, too. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. is now your prime time on the water, and as we push forward through spring that window will expand.

The blue-winged olive mayflies tend to be most active in the afternoons, with daily behavioral nymphal drifts occurring between noon and 3 p.m. most days. These mayflies typically wait for cloudy, often precipitous days to hatch in the afternoons, but you should be prepared regardless of the forecast. Sometimes all it takes is a single cloud to mute the sun for a hatch to occur. Recently, it seems that the clear, direct sunlight has fish content to feed just under the surface, intercepting nymphs and vulnerable emergers rather than committing to the dun on the water's surface. Next Tuesday's forecast of cooler temperatures and potential precipitation may make for more concentrated surface feeding. These mayflies are generally a #16-18, and offer some of the "match-the-hatch" dry and dry-dropper fishing of the year. Stonefly and other large attractor nymphs will be great anchor flies while nymphing during non-hatch periods. For droppers, try midge larva and pupa, caddis larva, and blue-winged olive nymphs and emergers."

Flows: 246 CFS at Hecla Junction (4/23/2021)

http://www.arkanglers.com/

Arkansas River

John Martin Reservoir

As of 4/23/2021, both the East and West boat ramps are open. Water levels are low and there is limited access to the trestle. Anglers are having luck catching walleye and saugeye.

John Martin Reservoir

Lake Pueblo

As of 4/23/2021, fishing slowed the last week with cooler water temperatures decreasing rising activity. Anticipate more hatches in the coming weeks and an increase in feeding activity as the water temperatures rise.

Lake Pueblo

Runyon & Fountain Lakes

The lakes were recently stocked on 3/19/2021, 2/26/2021, and 1/27/2021 and are fishing well. The last week's weather made. Trout fishing has been fair to good with a variety of artificial lures.

Runyon Lake Fountain Lake

Trinidad Lake

As of 4/23/2021, park staff reports the lake is at 631 surface acres with a surface elevation of 6179.94. The surface water temperature is 43-45 degrees Fahrenheit, and the water level is rising slightly. Boaters have had luck trolling Rapalas and worm harness. The south shore has produced good size trout regularly using PowerBait and doughballs. Call the park for the most up-to-date conditions 719-846-6951.

Trinidad Lake

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Blue River

As of 4/23/2021, at current flows fish can be found in pools and slow runs. Snows earlier in the week caused the trout to be less active. Finding active trout in the early mornings was difficult until later in the day when temperatures began to warm. Due to the snowstorms, there was hardly any hatch activity to speak of.

Flows: 636 CFS Below Green Mountain Reservoir (4/23/2021)

Blue River

Eagle River

As of 4/23/2021, the upper section of the river is experiencing a good midge and baetis hatches. The river is reportedly fishing well. It is recommended to try and fish deeper pools in the early hours and begin working the water column as the daytime temperatures increase.

Flows: 165 CFS Below Gypsum (4/23/2021)

Eagle River

Green Mountain Reservoir

As of 4/23/2021, reports have stated there is unsafe ice at the North end of the lake. It is not recommended to attempt ice fishing at this time. There is open water available for shore angling, no species reports yet.

Green Mountain Reservoir

Harvey Gap

As of 4/23/2021, there is plenty of shore angling opportunities and anglers have reported success catching trout with PowerBait, eggs, nightcrawlers, and spinners.

Harvey Gap

Lake John

As of 4/23/2021, Lake John reports intermittent fishing success for trout using standard baits and lures. <u>Lake John</u>

Rifle Gap

As of 4/23/2021, park staff reports the lake is producing trout, perch, and a few pike. Trout anglers have had success fishing spoons and spinners while jigs have been the go-to for perch.

Rifle Gap

Steamboat Lake

As of 4/23/2021, park staff reports the fishing has been great! Worms and wax worms are working the best. If you are not catching anything in one spot, move and you may have better luck. Call the visitor center, (970) 879-3922, for up-to-date information on lake conditions, open daily 8 am-4 pm.

Steamboat Lake

Vega Reservoir

Park staff reports as of 4/23/2021, boat ramps will open effective 8:00 a.m. on May 1st, 2021. Currently, the lake is ice-free. The Visitor Center is open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily and masks are required to enter. Beginning May 2021, to prevent boats from launching during hours that ANS inspections are not available, the park has installed new gates and one-way spike strips. The spike strips will allow boats to exit the lake after hours at the Island boat ramp but will prevent anyone from entering the lake during non-inspection hours. Boaters that plan to exit the lake after inspection hours should park and use the Island boat ramp so that they are not behind locked gates after hours. Early Settlers and Oak Point boat ramps will be locked every night after the ANS inspection gate closes at 8:30 p.m. Vega Reservoir

Yampa River

As of 4/23/2021, the Yampa River has been fishing very well for all species. Anglers have reported success using San Juan worms, midge patterns, and Wooly buggers.

Flow: 40.3 CFS Below Stagecoach Reservoir (4/23/2021)

Yampa River

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Animas River at Durango

As of 4/9/2021, Duranglers report, "The BWO hatch has arrived. 11-3 pm is a good time to find it. If you are not finding rising fish, put on a caddis pupa with a mayfly nymph and fish deep. The water is a little off-color so a little flash or contrast in your flies never hurts. Streamer fishing has just begun."

Flows: 282 CFS at Durango (4/23/2021)

<u>Duranglers</u> Animas River

Blue Mesa Reservoir

As of 4/23/2021, not many reports received from anglers, but the Lake Fork and Elk Creek boat ramps are open and have hours 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Blue Mesa Reservoir

Dolores River - above McPhee Reservoir

As of **4/23/2021** *Duranglers* report, "The upper Dolores is coming up, but fishing has been good with nymphs and streamers. Stonefly nymphs will be your friend in the deeper water."

Flows: 209 at Dolores (4/23/2021)

<u>Duranglers</u> Dolores River

Gunnison River

As of 4/23/2021 Duranglers report, "Expect small bugs to be your best bet and the lower reaches around Pleasure Park will be the only options easier to access. Go small and fish the deeper slots and runs."

Flows: 702 CFS below Gunnison Tunnel (4/23/2021)

Duranglers Gunnison River

Jackson Gulch Reservoir - Mancos State Park

As of 4/22/2021, the staff at Mancos State Park report, "The ice came completely off the lake the week of April 10th. There has not been much fishing happening since ice-off to get a good report, but late in the ice season, there was good action for rainbow trout 10-12 inches and yellow perch averaging 5 inches through the ice. A few larger rainbows being caught, along with a few perch near 14"! Splake (a brook trout/lake trout cross) are also being caught occasionally." Jackson Gulch Reservoir

James M. Robb Colorado River

As of 4/23/2021, park staff report all lakes are ice-free and all of the lakes have been stocked. Fishing is reportedly good using all types of bait. Please ensure the responsible and ethical release of fish and properly dispose of the fishing line. Remember, the daily limit for trout is four fish per person.

James M. Robb Colorado River - Corn, Fruita, and Connected Lakes

San Juan River at Pagosa Springs

As of 3/30/2021 Duranglers report, "The San Juan is in full on early season runoff. Fish the banks, and maybe even now is the time to float! Streamers and stonefly nymph rigs will be the go-to."

Flows: 351 CFS at Pagosa Springs (4/23/2021)

Duranglers San Juan River

Tip of the Week - Exploring Mt. Shavano Hatchery

Since 1881, Colorado Parks & Wildlife fish hatcheries have been dedicated to improving the fish populations of our beautiful state. Today, CPW operates 19 hatcheries that breed, hatch, rear, and stock over 90 million fish per year. Many of the fish produced are to enhance angling opportunities, while others serve a critical role in native species recovery efforts. Colorado fish hatcheries support our angling pastime, which annually contributes 1.9 billion dollars to our state's economy!

In the last report, we followed a walleye egg's journey through our Wray Fish Hatchery. This time we explore Mt. Shavano Fish Hatchery and <u>learn what it's like to work at a fish hatchery</u> and watch until the end to get insider tips on how to volunteer or get a job at a fish hatchery.

Explore Mt. Shavano Fish Hatchery

We love to hear back from our subscribers regarding fishing reports, tips, and requests of material you would like to start seeing more of. Any useful feedback helps us make our fishing reports a "go-to" resource for anglers fishing Colorado's waters. If you would like to report water and/or fishing conditions to be used in the next fishing report, feel free to submit a report to dnr_fish.reporter@state.co.us.

DNR Fish Reporter

